GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:381
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
NEW LIGHTING SYSTEM AT IAF AIRFIELDS FOR NIGHT FLYING
SUKENDER REDDY GUTHA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite an investment of Rs. 2.80 crore and a lapse of about 18 years, the airfield lighting system, which is a mandatory requirement for night flying, has not been commissioned in some airfields so far;

(b) if so, the details of the airfields where it has not been commissioned;

(c) whether this has forced the Indian Air Force to use age old method of using kerosene goose neck flares during night flying; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes. It is true that it has not been possible to commission Airfield lighting system at one IAF airfield, so far due to failure of underground cables and isolating transformers.

(b) IAF airfield at Carnicobar.

(c) Use of Kerosene Goose Neck Flares during night flying is a well accepted practice, followed even at IAF airfields, having serviceable Airfield lighting system, as a standby measure, for operational reasons.

(d) At Carnicobar, extension of runway is in progress on both ends, which would change the lighting pattern. Hence, completion of the work of Airfield lighting will follow extension of the runway.